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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	The Timber Industry in the Bistrita District and Miscellaneous Information on Bistrita	DATE DISTR.	28 October 1960
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Ministry of Wood and Paper Industries, established in 1948, controls two types of industrial establishments, the timber plants and the forest exploitation plants. Prior to 1955, forest exploitation plants formed a separate body, but since then they have been subordinate to the Directorate of Forests of the Ministry of Wood and Paper Industries. The offices of the Directorate are located in Bucharest, in a building of their own, separate from the main Ministry building.
2. The management of forest exploitation plants deals with the felling of trees for industrial use and fuel, and the transport of timber for industry to the respective plants. The management of timber plants distributes the wood among the plants and determines quantities to be exported.
3. The Bistrita district offices of the forest exploitation plants are located in a new quarter of the town, near the Roman Catholic Church, and are administratively subordinate to the Wood Trust in Cluj. They are in charge of forest exploitation in Valea Birgaului and Valea Budacului. The planned annual output amounts to 30,000 to 40,000 cubic meters for industrial use and approximately 10,000 tons for fuel. The Bistrita district offices have a staff of three to four engineers and about 60 technicians and clerks. During the winter, 400 to 500 workers are employed in tree felling, but their number is reduced to 200 to 300 in summer. The workers' daily wage fluctuates between 18 and 26 lei.
4. Following are details on paper and timber plants in the Bistrita district:
 - a. A paper mill, established in 1935, which belonged to Schneier and Freier until nationalization when it was enlarged, now consists of the main factory building, a machine shop, and eight new one-story buildings which contain the workers' apartments. It is situated in the village of Prundul Birgaului, about 20 kilometers from Bistrita in the direction of Vatra Dornei. The mill has 200 to 300 employees

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and operates in three shifts. It manufactures white packing paper and stationery.

- b. An old sawmill, situated in the village of Susenii Birgaului, approximately 18 kilometers from Bistrita, in the direction of Vatra Dornei, had been enlarged since the end of the war by the addition of two new saw-frames, bringing the total number of frames up to three. It has an output of 15,000 cubic meters of boards per year, part of the production being exported to [redacted] It has about 80 employees, working in two shifts. A box factory, which operates only on special orders, is situated in the same village. 50X1-HUM
- c. Another sawmill is located in the village of Bistrita Birgaului, 30 kilometers from Bistrita in the direction of Colibita. This mill was totally destroyed during World War II and has since been rebuilt and re-equipped with new machinery. The mill has six saw-frames and employs about 150 workers in two shifts. Its annual output amounts to approximately 30,000 cubic meters. Part of the wood is exported and the rest is used in the country for furniture, and in the construction of housing and factories.

5. The following sawmills in the Cluj province are reported:

- a. An old pre-war sawmill is situated in the village of Ilva-Mica, about 130 kilometers from Cluj, on the Cluj-Vatra Dornei road. Some of its equipment has been replaced since the war and the mill employs about 150 workers in two shifts. Its annual output amounts to approximately 30,000 cubic meters of industrial timber.
- b. A sawmill is located in the village of Fiad, approximately 130 kilometers from Cluj, on the Cluj-Salva Vaseul road. The mill has six saw-frames and employs 150 workers in two shifts. Annual production amounts to approximately 30,000 cubic meters.
- c. A sawmill of similar size, number of employees and annual output, is situated in the village of Poeni, about 160 kilometers from Cluj, on the Cluj-Oradea road. This mill was destroyed during World War II and has since been rebuilt.
- d. A sawmill is located in the village of Somesul Rece, about six kilometers from Cluj, in the direction of Cimpia Turzii. It has five frames, 150 workers operating in two shifts, and an annual production of approximately 20,000 cubic meters.

6. In addition to the timber exploitation and processing establishments controlled by the Ministry of Wood Industries, there are similar plants which are subordinate to the local authorities and are, therefore, controlled by the Ministry of the Interior.
7. The exploitation of forests is executed in accordance with a central plan worked out jointly by the Ministry of Wood Industries and the local authorities. In the immediate post-war era, tree felling largely exceeded planting. As a result, it was decided to restrict the felling of trees in 1956. Since 1948, fire wood has been rationed - 2,100 kg. per year being allotted to an apartment consisting of two rooms and a kitchen. This is entirely insufficient, and people try to buy the rest of their requirements on the black market. This was especially true until 1956, and even then this source of supply was not assured. The situation improved, however, since the introduction of methane for heating in Cluj, in 1955, and in Bucharest in 1956, and people now receive their wood rations without difficulty.

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8. The following information on Bistrita is reported: Bistrita is a district center in the province of Cluj. It has a population of approximately 16,000, of whom 60 per cent are Rumanians, approximately 20 per cent Hungarians, and 10 per cent are Germans (remaining 10 per cent unexplained). There have been no significant developments in the town since World War II.

9. The following street name changes are reported:

<u>New Name</u>	<u>Old Name</u>
Calea Armatei Rosii	(Strada Lemnelor (Strada Suburbiul De Sus
Strada Filimon Sirbu	Strada Garii
Piata Stalin	Piata Mare
Strada Malinowski	Strada Pungarilor
Strada Nicolae Iorga	Strada Ungara
Strada Molotov	Strada Spitalului
Strada Odobescu	Strada Mihai

10. The following public institutions in Bistrita are reported:

- a. The municipal council has its offices in the former Primarie, a one-story building at the corner of Piata Stalin and Strada Noua.
- b. The district council offices are in the former Prefectura, a large two-story building in Calea Armatei Rosii.
- c. The Militia is located in a former private residence on the left side of Strada Suburbiul De Jos, going toward the center of town, a short distance from the corner of Strada Filimon Sirbu. This is a large one-story building, with a 20 meter front and a 30 meter courtyard.
- d. The Securitate occupies a villa which once belonged to Dr. Scridon, a deputy Minister in the Antonescu government. The building, located on former Bulevardul Elisabeth, consists of a cellar and a mezzanine. The courtyard contains a newly-constructed building which houses the Securitate prisons and investigation rooms.
- e. The law court situated at its pre-war location on Piata Stalin is in a large, two-story building.
- f. The prison occupies the same building as before the war, in Strada Malinowski, except that it formerly also housed the magistrate court which has since been abolished. The first floor of the prison building contains the district prosecution offices.
- g. The city and district Party committee and the Communist youth organization, (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc, UTM), have their quarters in a building on Piata Stalin, on the corner of Strada Molotov. Construction of this house began before the war, was interrupted, resumed after the war, and was completed in 1947. Until 1948, the building was used by the municipal council, but when the latter moved to its present quarters, the house was turned over to its present occupants. It is a large, one-story building, approximately 50 meters long and 40 meters wide.

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- h. The post and telegraph offices, and the telephone exchange, still occupy their pre-war premises in Strada Molotov, corner of Strada Odobescu, in a one-story building, with the post office and the telephone exchange occupying the ground-floor, and the telegraph office the first floor. The building has been repaired and renovated since the end of the war.
 - i. The district offices of the forest exploitation plants management are located in the new quarter.
 - j. The MTS is situated in Strada Molotov, corner of Strada Odobescu, where it occupies a former private house.
 - k. The RATA bus and truck company garage is situated on the left side of Strada Filimon Sirbu, going in the direction of Strada Decebal.
11. The following military objectives are reported:
- a. The former Regimentul Vinatori De Munte barracks cover a large area along the right side of Calea Armatei Rosii, coming from the center of town. The barracks are occupied by Rumanian army units.
 - b. The former Regimentul 84 Infanterie barracks are also occupied by Rumanian units.
 - c. New military food and ammunition stores are located along the railway tracks between the roads to Tripiu and to Dumitra. The stores, which were completed in 1957, consist of three or four groundfloor buildings, which cover a total area of 100 by 150 meters.
12. Following are details on public services in Bistrita:
- a. The fire brigade occupies a small building on Strada Tolstoi, in its pre-war location. Its equipment consists of three new fire engines with automatic ladders.
 - b. The electric power station is located on the bank of the Bistrita river, at its pre-war location. The building itself is new (completed in 1951), but the equipment has not been replaced. The town uses alternating current of 220 V and 110 V., and the supply of electricity is adequate.
 - c. The water works are situated near the waterfall north of the windmill, and has, in recent years, been equipped with a new turbine.
 - d. The railway station occupies a small groundfloor building at the junction of the railway tracks with Strada Tirpiului, and has about four tracks.
13. The following medical institutions are reported:
- a. The state hospital has occupied the premises formerly used by the Directia Silvica, on Strada Suburbial De Jos, since 1954. The hospital consists of three one-story buildings and has about 300 beds.
 - b. The maternity hospital and the children's hospital are located in the former government hospital, consisting of five or six one-story buildings, and the hospitals have a total of about 300 beds.
 - c. The clinic and the blood bank occupy the former "Fritsch" Hotel in Strada Molotov.

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- d. A T. B. hospital, established in 1957, is located at the northeast end of town, where it occupies a group of four buildings, formerly used by other hospitals which were closed down.

14. Following are details on industrial plants in Bistrita:

- a. The I. C. Frimu sausage factory, which formerly belonged to the Bred brothers, is located on the left side of a street parallel to Strada Filimon Sirbu going from Strada Molotov to Bulevardul Elisabeta (former name). The factory is part of the I. C. Frimu economic enterprises of the local authorities.
- b. A furniture factory is located on Bulevardul Elisabeta, in the third house past the Securitate, going in the direction of Strada Filimon Sirbu.
- c. A brick and tile factory was erected in the rear of the power station in 1954 and employs about 40 workers.

15. The following schools are reported:

- a. The co-educational secondary school is located on Bulevardul Elisabeta, in a building once occupied by the Liceul Evanghelic. Languages of instruction at the school are Rumanian, Hungarian and German.
- b. A co-educational elementary school is also located on Bulevardul Elisabeta past the furniture factory, coming from the center of town, with languages instructed the same as in the secondary school.

16. The following cinemas, hotels, and banks are reported:

- a. The Maxim Gorki cinema is located in the House of Culture bearing the same name (formerly Gewerbeverein), and has a seating capacity of 300.
- b. The "23 August" cinema (formerly "Omnia"), with a seating capacity of approximately 300, is located on Bulevardul Elisabeta.
- c. State Hotel No. 1 (formerly Kovacs Hotel), on the left side of Strada Nicolae Iorga, coming from Piata I. V. Stalin, has approximately 30 rooms.
- d. State Hotel No. 2 (formerly Figan Hotel), on Strada Decebal, at the corner of Strada Filimon Sirbu, is a small establishment with about 10 rooms.
- e. The state bank, the agricultural bank and the investment bank, all have their offices in the former Banca Nationala building on the left side of Strada Odobescu, coming from the center of town.
- f. The savings bank branch has its offices on the groundfloor of a three-story building on Piata Stalin. The rest of the building consists of private apartments.

17. Bistrita has one bus line, which starts in Aldorf village, passes along Calea Armatei Rosii, and terminates at the village of Vissoara.

18. Soviet Army troops left the town in 1947, after the signing of the peace treaty between Rumania and the Allies.

19. An old airfield, dating from pre-war times, and a civilian flying school are located in Iad village, 11 kilometers from Bistrita.

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20.

[redacted] a legend and town plan of Bistrita.

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Subject: Legend to Sketch of BISTRITA.

- I. CALEA ARMATEI ROSII**
- II. STRADA TIRPIULUI**
- III. STRADA DECEBAL**
- IV. PIATA I. V. STALIN**
- V. STRADA FILIMON SIRBU**
- VI. STRADA MALINKOVSKI**
- VII. BULEVARDUL ELIZABETA (former name)**
- VIII. STRADA MOLOTOV**
- IX. STRADA SUBURBIUL DE JOS**
- X. STRADA NOUA**
- XI. STRADA BUDACULUI**
- XII. STRADA NICOLAE JORGA**
- XIII. STRADA ODOBESCU**
- XIV. STRADA TOLSTOI**
- XV. B. ALDORF**
- XVI. To BIRDACUL DE JOS**
- XVII. To PLASENI DE SUS**
- XVIII. To TIRPIU**
- XIX. To DUMITRA**

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1. **Railway station**
2. **MIMMA offices**
3. **Post and telegraph offices and telephone exchange**
4. **City and district Party committees and communist youth organisation (COMITETUL RAIONAL, COMITETUL ORASENESC AL P. M. R. SI U. T. M.)**
5. **Law court**
6. **Municipal council (SFATUL POPULAR ORASENESC)**
7. **District council (SFATUL POPULAR RAIONAL)**
8. **SECURITATE offices**
9. **Prison**
10. **The former REGIMENTUL 84 INFANTERIE ^{baracks}**
11. **The former REGIMENT VINATORŢ DE ^{MUNTE} barracks**
12. **Military stores**
13. **Fire brigade**
14. **Power station**
15. **Water works**
16. **Football ^{FIELD} pitch**
17. **"MAXIM GORKI" House of Culture**
18. **"23 AUGUST" cinema (formerly "OMNIA")**
19. **Slaughterhouse**
20. **I. C. FRIMU sausage factory**
21. **I. F. E. T. centre**

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23. Furniture factory
24. BATA garage
25. State hotel No. 1
26. State hotel No. 2
27. Dispensary
28. Hospital (SPITALUL UNIFICAT DE STAT)
29. Maternity and children's hospital
30. Brick and tile factory
31. T.B. hospital
32. Co-educational secondary school
33. Elementary school
34. State bank
35. Investment bank
36. MTE.

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